

1                                   **MR. MILTON GOLD**

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3                   CHAIRMAN JAMES; Milton Gold.

4                   MR. GOLD: I've submitted mine in writing with some  
5 documentation. I would like to just skip through it. I know  
6 it's too long to read. Someone has said that legalized gambling  
7 is the politician's dream and the public's nightmare. Our  
8 nightmare began in LaPorte County in Michigan City, Indiana in  
9 August, 1993. I want to share some of that nightmare because  
10 it's one of fear and intimidation imposed by those who were pro  
11 gaming on not just those of us, a small group that opposed but on  
12 the business, community and civic leaders.

13                   I provided some documentation on that. I've been a  
14 pastor for almost 30 years and I've long understood that the  
15 world didn't much care what we preached within our four walls as  
16 long we didn't take that message into the streets. When we hit  
17 the street with it, I found out that there was another world out  
18 there and we began to experience that.

19                   What I hadn't been aware of, as we tried to oppose  
20 the riverboat gambling coming into our particular area was having  
21 the fear that people had. In Michigan City there were 430  
22 Chamber of Commerce members and only 30 voted for supporting this  
23 casino. One of them told me secretively and provided some  
24 information that they didn't dare talk publicly for fear that the  
25 fire marshall or somebody would show up and close down their  
26 particular business. City employees had a bit of arm twisting  
27 from the city mayor, strongly suggesting that they vote for the  
28 riverboat because they needed the jobs and they needed the  
29 income. Restaurant owners feared the health department would

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1 show up. These are people that talked to me. Construction  
2 companies were the same way. We had one person that did support  
3 us from construction and immediately when the support became  
4 public information, the unions pulled three jobs from him.

5 So there was all kinds of harassment and even  
6 harassment of the six of us who got together to combat the coming  
7 of the riverboat gambling. On the day of the voting, they had  
8 brought in people from Chicago to run the vote in Michigan City.  
9 That's in the paper, and I've documented some of that. We were  
10 outspent something like 342,000 to \$2,700 and they won by less  
11 than a percent of the vote.

12 Someone said that this is compassion. We cannot  
13 suffer with the poor when we are unwilling to confront those  
14 persons and systems that cause poverty. We cannot set the  
15 captives free when we do not want to confront those who carry the  
16 keys. We cannot profess our solidarity with those who are  
17 opposed when we're unwilling to confront the oppressor.  
18 Compassion without confrontation fades quickly into fruitful  
19 sentimental commiseration. Someone else has said if you see a  
20 good fight, get in it.

21 So I speak for myself and the growing multitude  
22 across the country. We see a good fight and we're getting into  
23 it and because we care, we will fight the ravages of legalized  
24 gambling that's dealing a death blow to our citizens and our  
25 community and our youth, much like the tobacco industry. That  
26 comparison has been used a lot today. Like devastating fires, I  
27 say compassion can do no less.

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